

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 4, 2010. Claims 37, 39, 41, 42, 43 and 44 remain in the application, with Claim 38 having been canceled. Claims 37, 41, 43 and 44 are the independent claims. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 37 to 39 and 41 to 44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,782,495 (Bernklau-Halvor) in view of U.S. Publication No. 2002/0085223 (Bigi). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The claims generally relate to a client terminal that displays the status of accessories for a connected printer (e.g., ink remaining amount). In the claims, the client terminal automatically displays a status screen on a display when print processing is begun, the status screen including a support instruction unit, and acquires information indicating a purchase place of the printer via a printer driver of the printer. When the support instruction is operated, information indicating ink remaining amount of the printer is acquired. Additional information including the information indicating the ink remaining amount of the printer and the information indicating the purchase place of the printer are added to a first address for accessing a transfer server and the additional information is transmitted to the transfer server. The transfer server, based on the purchase place information, designates a service providing apparatus, adds the ink remaining information to a second address for accessing the designated apparatus, and transmits it to the client. The client, then transmits the information added to the second address to the designated service providing apparatus by accessing the service providing apparatus using the second

address to which the information indicating at least the ink remaining amount of the printer is added by the transfer server. The service providing apparatus generates screen information on the ink of the printer based on the information added to the second address and transmits the generated screen information to the client terminal, whereby it is displayed.

Referring specifically to the claim language, amended independent Claim 41 is directed to a client terminal connected with a printer and being capable of communicating with a transfer server and a service providing apparatus, the client terminal comprising a first acquisition unit that acquires information indicating a purchase place of the printer via a printer driver of the printer, a display unit that automatically displays a status screen on a display when print processing is begun, the status screen including a support instruction unit, a second acquisition unit that acquires information indicating ink remaining amount of the printer when the support instruction unit is operated, a first transmission unit that transmits additional information including the information indicating the ink remaining amount of the printer and the information indicating the purchase place of the printer to the transfer server by adding the additional information to a first address for accessing the transfer server, a first reception unit that receives, from the transfer server, a second address to which the information indicating at least the ink remaining amount of the printer of the additional information is added to the second address by the transfer server, the second address for accessing a service providing apparatus designated by the transfer server based on the information indicating at least the purchase place of the printer of the additional information added to the first address, a second transmission unit that transmits the information added to the second address to the designated service

providing apparatus by accessing the service providing apparatus using the second address to which the information indicating at least the ink remaining amount of the printer is added, a second reception unit that receives screen information on the ink of the printer from the service providing apparatus, the screen information being generated by the service providing apparatus based on the information indicating at least the ink remaining amount of the printer added to the second address transmitted by the second transmission unit, and a display unit which displays the screen information on the ink of the printer received by the second reception unit on the display.

Claims 43 and 44 are method and computer medium claims that substantially correspond to Claim 41, while Claim 37 is a system claim that includes the client terminal substantially corresponding to Claim 41.

The applied art, alone or in any permissible combination, is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 37, 41, 43 and 44, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the features of a client terminal i) transmitting additional information indicating a purchase place of a printer, which is acquired via a printer driver, and information indicating ink remaining amount of the printer to a transfer server by adding the additional information to a first address for accessing the transfer server, ii) receiving, from the transfer server, a second address for accessing a service providing apparatus, which is designated by the transfer server based on the information indicating the purchase place of the printer, to which the information indicating at least the ink remaining amount is added, and iii) and receiving screen information on the ink of the printer from the service providing apparatus when the client accesses the service providing apparatus using the second address from the transfer server.

Bernklau-Halvor discloses that when a user encounters a printer problem, the user activates a printer driver and selects a support link on troubleshooting tab to request the support, and a support server transmits a page including a support link in response to the request. Bernklau-Halvor is not, however, seen to teach the features of the client terminal i) transmitting additional information indicating a purchase place of a printer, which is acquired via a printer driver, and information indicating ink remaining amount of the printer to a transfer server by adding the additional information to a first address for accessing the transfer server, ii) receiving, from the transfer server, a second address for accessing a service providing apparatus, which is designated by the transfer server based on the information indicating the purchase place of the printer, to which the information indicating at least the ink remaining amount is added, and iii) and receiving screen information on the ink of the printer from the service providing apparatus when the client accesses the service providing apparatus using the second address from the transfer server.

Bigi is merely seen to disclose that a user can select a position for stapling on a document displayed on a screen by a printer driver, and the printer driver, knowing the physical capabilities of the printer, can then instruct the printer controller with a specific amount of rotation in order to staple the document at the user's selected position. Bigi is not, however, seen to teach anything that, when combined with Bernklau-Halvor, would have resulted in the features of the claims.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Claims 37 to 39 and 41 to 44 are believed to be allowable.

No other matters having been raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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